[4th November 1935

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" What I ask is whether it is not public property in general?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" There is involved a proposition of law which I am not prepared to expound now and here."

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—" It is stated in the answer: 'The village has been in existence for the last 50 or 60 years and the Mariamman temple in it was built by the Adi-Dravidas of the village.' Since it was constructed by the Hindu Adi-Dravidas, how can it become the property of Christian Adi-Dravidas?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" The building was built by the Adi-Dravida residents of that village when they were Hindus for the purpose of using it as a place of worship, and when they became Christians, they are also using it as a place of worship."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—" Is it not after all a judicial civil matter in which the Government should not interfere?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" They are not interfering, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" With regard to the statement that there was no image in the temple but only a stone which was worshipped by the Adi-Dravidas, may I know whether it is not a fact that stones in the shape of images and lingams are being worshipped by the caste Hindus as Gods and whether Government realize it?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" We do not say that it was not a temple. We do admit that it was being used as a place of worship."

Electricity

Insertion of a condition in the electric licences issued to private bodies for the development of rural areas.

* 433 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Tinnevelly and Ramnad districts, private bodies have applied for electric licences covering large rural areas, though in such licences the compulsory areas proposed to be developed by them consist of only a few streets within the municipal or union limits; and

(*b*) whether, before granting the licence in future, the Government propose to impose any restriction on private licensees insisting on them to develop rural load according to an annual programme fixed by the Government?

A.—(*a*) Yes, except in the South Arcot district for which a licence has already been granted.

4th November 1935]

(*b*) The question whether distributing licences are to be granted to private companies in rural areas commanded by a State Hydro-Electric project or whether the Government should retain in their own hands the development of such areas is under consideration. If it is decided to adopt the former alternative, the suggestion of the hon. Member will be duly considered.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know whether it will not be better for the Government themselves to chalk out a programme of work for rural as well as urban areas and publish the same for the information of the public as one of the means of advance propaganda for the sale of power and also to insist on the licensees to develop according to the programme chalked out?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" Extensive service is already under the consideration of the Government. As regards the particular method suggested by the hon. Member, I do not know what to say."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" In answer to clause (*a*), it is said 'Yes.' I want to know, Sir, whether it does not conclusively prove the lack of interest on the part of the licensees to develop rural areas and the consequent futility of giving them licences for such areas?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" If it is profitable, certainly it is open to the licensees to see that they extend their operations as far as possible."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" If there is this lack of interest, will Government see that in future they insist on such conditions in the licence, or take up the work themselves with a view to give facilities to rural areas?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" The Government have no information as to the lack of interest on the part of these licensees."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know whether the Hon. Member would consider the suggestion contained in my question?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" I have no objection to consider any suggestion coming from hon. Members; but whether we will be able to follow it up or not is another matter."

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—RESOLUTION *RE* GUARANTEE IN RESPECT OF DEBENTURES ISSUED BY CENTRAL LAND MORTGAGE BANK—*cont.*

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—" Discussion will now continue on the resolution moved by the Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan on Saturday."

Mr. C. BASU DEV:—" With regard to this resolution, may I submit, Sir, that inasmuch as the annual report of the bank has been